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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of grace, glory, and power, the battle belongs to You. Forgive us for fearing the future, forgetting how You have led us in the past. Forgive us also for our haste to paint a caricature of the many because of the mistakes of the few. Lord, remind us that fierce winds bring no anxiety to those who keep their eyes on You.

Lord, today, imbue our lawmakers and the members of their staffs with Your wisdom, that they may know the road to take. Sustain those who courageously bear the burdens of the marginalized.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 31, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR MARKEY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just a brief word or two about the Presiding Officer. When he took the oath to become a Senator, we had a lot of things going on here. I did not have the opportunity to say as much about him as I would have liked because we were in the thralls of a real battle that we seem to have resolved.

I do not know if there is anyone in my 31 years of Congress who has been better prepared to be a Senator than the Senator from Massachusetts who now is the Presiding Officer. His stunning record has already been established with his work in the Senate. I have, from afar, admired this good man and for 4 years up close when I served in the House with him. His work for the environment has been unparalleled. His is one of the rare voices that have for many years understood the dangers of nuclear waste. He has been aware of the benefits of nuclear power but also the dangers.

There is a long résumé the Presiding Officer has. I want the record to reflect that I am terribly impressed with the work he has already done in the House and will be even more impressed with the work he will do here in the Senate. The people of Massachusetts are very fortunate in having the Presiding Officer from Massachusetts.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks the Senate will resume consideration of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. At about 10:45 there will be a roll-call vote in relation to the Paul amendment. As I have indicated to him and others, we will probably move to table that. That will be up to the two managers of the bill, but I understand that is what they are going to do—or someone will do.

Following disposition of the Paul amendment, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the Jones nomination to be Director of the ATF. We will do this vote just as quickly as I can work out an appropriate time with the Republican leader.

Yesterday I filed cloture on the THUD bill. As a result, the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments on that bill is 1 p.m. today.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1392

Mr. REID. I am told S. 1392 is at the desk and due for a second reading. If that is true, I ask the clerk to report the same.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1392) to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

THE TAX CODE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when President Obama proposed a plan yesterday

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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